

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0138781 to Okuda et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,913,038 to Griffiths.

The Okuda et al. publication discloses a file management method, program therefor, recording medium containing the program, and file management apparatus for performing the method, in which depending on the format of an optical disc (CD, CD-R, CD-RW), the Okuda et al. method/apparatus presumes a certain predetermined file format and then only looks for that file format on the optical disc.

the Griffiths patent discloses a system and method for processing multimedia data streams using filter graphs.

While noting "However Okuda does not explicitly discloses means for retrieving stored capabilities of said reading apparatus, said CAP signifying which coding formats and/or content types said reading apparatus supports to play such data files", the Examiner now states "Griffiths from the similar field of endeavor discloses means for retrieving stored capabilities of said reading apparatus, said CAP signifying which coding formats and/or content types said reading apparatus supports to play such data files (such as, an appropriate file reader compatible with the media type of the data stream , abstract, such as video data and audio data streams, and pass these data streams to an audio renderer filter 306 and to a video CODEC filter 308, col.,11 lines, 29-54)."

Applicants submit that the Examiner is mis-reading Griffiths. In particular, the section of Griffiths noted by the Examiner states:

"Turning now to FIG. 3 for a representative example of the architecture of a typical filter graph, a filter graph 300 supports the processing of audio and compressed video by use of a chain of five filters. A source filter 302 can read the data from a source file, which is typically maintained on a local or remote storage medium. The source filter outputs source data to a splitter transform filter 304. The splitter transform filter 304 can split the incoming data stream into a pair of data streams, namely video data and audio data streams, and pass these data streams to an audio renderer filter 306 and to a video CODEC filter 308. The audio renderer filter 306 can render the audio data stream to play the audio data via a speaker (not shown). The video CODEC transform filter 308 can decompress the video data and output a decompressed video data stream. A video renderer filter 310 accepts and renders the decompressed video data stream to support a display of the video data on a monitor (not shown). The video renderer filter 310 typically outputs the rendered video data to a hardware renderer, such as a video card, or to an output file maintained on a storage medium. Based on the review of filter types above, the source filter 302 represents a source filter, the splitter transform filter 304 and the video CODEC transform filter 308 are classified as transform filters, and the audio renderer filter 306 and the video renderer filter 310 represent renderer filters."

Applicants submit that it should be apparent from the above that the filter graph 300 of Griffiths is an array of filters for processing audio and compressed video information (of a predetermined format). However, Applicants submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Griffiths of "means for retrieving stored capabilities (CAP) of said reading apparatus, said CAP signifying which coding formats and/or content types said reading apparatus supports to play such data files" as clearly set forth in

claims 1 and 15. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Griffiths of the existence of such a CAP file, as clearly set forth in claim 7.

The Examiner now states:

"Okuda in view of Griffiths disclose means for retrieving stored capabilities of said reading apparatus, said CAP signifying which coding formats and/or content types said reading apparatus supports to play such data files", (such as, an appropriate file reader compatible with the media type of the data stream, abstract, such as video data and audio data streams, and pass these data streams to an audio renderer filter 306 and to a video CODEC filter 308, col., 1 lines, 29-54)."

Applicants would like to point out that the audio renderer filter 306 and the video CODEC filter 308 are the actual applications for operating on the data files. However, contrary to the Examiner's statement, there is no separate file (CAP) indicating what coding formats and/or content types are capable of being handled by said audio renderer filter and said video CODEC filter, as well as any other applications currently installed in the Griffiths system.

The Examiner further adds "Okuda further discloses selection means for selecting a set of data files complying with the CAP from among data files contained on said information carrier (paragraph [0006], [0008] and [0011])".

Applicants submit that the Examiner is mis-reading Okuda et al. In particular, the noted paragraphs of Okuda et al. state:

"[0006] When the personal computer records the music content file on the CD-R or CD-RW, the file is recorded in a data-compressed form in many cases, and this can record a large quantity of music content on a single

CD-R. In addition, by using a layered structure composed of folders having genre names, artist names, etc., a large number of files can be recorded. This makes it possible to easily and securely select desired music content by operating the personal computer."

"[0008] The personal computers use a layered structure of folders to manage files, while car-mounted apparatuses have a defect in that it cannot display such a layered structure on a large screen differently from the personal computers since it has a relatively small display unit. In personal computer file management using the layered structure, in order to select a desired file, the personal computer must sequentially follow subfolders from an upper folder, and must select the desired file by using files of various software applications. Accordingly, in the case of enjoying with the car-mounted apparatus CD-Rs and CD-RWs having content recorded by personal computers, it is difficult to easily and securely find the file of desired content."

"[0011] To this end, according to an aspect of the present invention, a file management method for accessing a recording unit in which files are recorded in a layered structure is provided. The file management method includes an address-information acquisition step for acquiring from the recording unit first information on the addresses in the layered structure of files belonging to a predetermined folder and second information on the addresses in the layered structure of files belonging to a subfolder of the predetermined folder, a display step for, based on the first information and the second information, displaying representations of the files belonging to the predetermined folder and representations of the files belonging to the subfolder in a virtual form in which the files belonging to the predetermined folder and the files belonging to the subfolder belong to a single folder, and a selected-file acceptance step for using the screen displayed by the display step to accept a file selected from among the files belonging to the predetermined folder and the files belonging to the subfolder."

Applicants submit that the above paragraphs merely describe the file structure used by a personal computer to arrange the recording of music files on CD-type recording media. However,

there is no disclosure or suggestion of "selection means for selecting a set of data files complying with the CAP (non-existent in Okuda et al.) from among data files contained on said information carrier". In fact, Griffiths pre-supposes that the car audio system is capable of playing back all of the information stored on the information carrier by the personal computer. As such, there is no selection being performed based on the "capabilities" of the car audio system (or of the personal computer).

The Examiner now states:

"Okuda in view of Griffiths discloses selection means for selecting a set of data files complying with the CAP from among data files contained on said information carrier (such as, select a desired music, such as, the user to select a desired file paragraph [0028] and [0055])."

Applicants note that Okuda et al. includes selection means enabling a user to select a desired music and to designate playing the desired music while seeing a screen including music names (paragraph [0028]), and that the user is able to select a desired file by simply scrolling the displayed items (paragraph [0055]). However, the only relation of such a selection means and that described in claim 1 is in name only. In particular, as claimed in claim 1, the selection means is for "for selecting a set of data files complying with the CAP from among data files contained on said information carrier". It should be clear that the selection means of the subject invention is not a user interface allowing the user to select a file, but rather, is an operative element of the

user interface of the subject invention which scans all of the data files on the information carrier and establishes a set of data files which comply with the capabilities as indicated in the CAP file.

With regard to the claim limitation "presentation means for presenting to said user, a table of contents from the selected data files", the Examiner has indicated that Okuda et al. discloses this in paragraph [0032] and the abstract.

Paragraph [0032] of Okuda et al. states:

"[0032] The data required for accessing the optical disk 12 includes identification data representing the type of the optical disk 12, data on the title of the optical disk 12, and management data. In a case in which the optical disk 12 is a CD-R or a CD-RW containing various files created by the personal computer, the management data is data for managing files recorded on the optical disk 12 and includes a directory structure of the files, the names of the files, and the recording positions on the optical disk 12 of the files. In a case in which the optical disk 12 is a CD, the management data includes a table of contents and other data. The management data is consecutive data that is loaded from the optical disk 12 into a common computer-connected optical disk drive such as the optical disk unit 5 and is used to access the optical disk 12 in response to a command from the computer or a user's operation."

while the Abstract states:

"A file management method displays representations of files belonging to a predetermined folder and representations of files belonging to a subfolder of the predetermined folder in a virtual form in which the representations of the files belonging to the predetermined folder and the representations of the files belonging to the subfolder belong to a single folder so that the file of desired content can be easily and securely found. The file management method, a program for performing the file management method, a recording medium containing the program, and a file

management apparatus are intended for use in car-mounted apparatuses."

While from the above, it may be inferred that there are presentation means that may display a table of contents, this table of contents is supplied by the information carrier, and is not generated from the results of a selection by the selection means.

With regard to claim 5, the Examiner states "Griffiths discloses wherein said user interface system further comprises: downloading means for downloading a plug-in allowing playing data files contained on said information carrier and considered non-playable according to initial CAP of said reading apparatus (col., 11 lines, 29-54)."

Applicants point out that the referenced section of Griffiths et al. is quoted above. A reading of that section will show that Griffiths et al. neither discloses nor suggests downloading anything, let alone "a plug-in allowing...."

The Examiner now states "Okuda in view of Griffiths disclose downloading (such as, a file management method for downloading a desired file to a predetermined recording medium, paragraph [0015, [0069] and claim 12)."

Applicants submit that this is in reference to the downloading of a particular data file which may then be rendered or stored on a recording medium. However, this is distinguished from a "plug-in" as claimed in claim 5. In particular, as described in the specification on page 6, lines 6-15, and includes software for enabling the playing of a data file that was deemed unplayable due

to the reading apparatus' capabilities as described in the CAP file.

As an example, the reading apparatus may only have software for reading and rendering MP3 files, which is then indicated in the CAP file. If the information carrier has audio files in accordance with MP3 as well as files in accordance with WMA (Windows Media Audio), the WMA audio files would be deemed unplayable and would not appear in the set of selected files selected by the selection means, nor would the WMA audio files appear in the Table of Contents as presented by the presentation means (based on the set of selected files). However, as indicated in claim 5, a "plug-in" may be available for WMA audio files, which plug-in could then be downloaded and installed in the reading apparatus enabling the reading apparatus to play WMA audio files as well as MP3 audio files.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is not rendered obvious by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicants believes that this application, containing claims 1-18, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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